has decided to increase the import duty on crude edible oils, ranging from 35% to 55% at present, to a uniform rate of 75% and on refined oils from 45%—65% to 85% respectively.

Statement

Prices of Milling and Ball Copra

(Price Rs. per quintal)

Year	M.S.P. of Copra		Wholesale Prices (Annual Average)		
	Milling	Ball	Cochin (Milling)	Kozhikode (Milling)	Arsikere (Ball)
1995	2500	2725	2275	2385	—
1996	2500	2725	2856	3104	3405
1997	2700	2925	3424	3675	5026
1998	2900	3125	2864	3146	4453
1999	3100	3325	3645	3833	3973
2000	3250	3500	2316	2525	3718

Import of Milk Powder

2893. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite being the largest milk producing country in the world, the country is importing milk powder;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take for production of milk in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Under the liberalised Exim Policy, skimmed milk powder is freely importable. Hence some imports of this item take place through private traders.

(c) Apart from milk production enhancement programmes of State Governments, the Government of India is supplementing their efforts by implementing the following schemes:

(i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

(ii) Assistance to States for Fodder Development.

(iii) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.

(iv) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.

Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in non-operation flood, hilly and backward areas.

Earthquake prone areas in Maharashtra

2894. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding earthquake prone areas in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial steps are being taken in this regard to minimise the likely losses in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The primary responsibility for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities is that of the State Governments. The Government of Maharashtra had undertaken an exercise to prepare Disaster Management Action Plan (DMAP) for the State as a whole and the districts for various calamities including earthquake. Part I of the DMAP contains the overview and the risk assessment and vulnerability analysis. Part II outlines the institutional arrangements, inter-department linkages, role of NGOs, voluntary agencies and nodal agencies etc.